



OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 23, 2001

TO: Region Engineers
Region Associate Delivery Engineers
Region Construction Engineers
Resident/Project Engineers/TSC Managers

FROM: C. Thomas Maki
Chief Operations Officer

Gary D. Taylor
Chief Engineer/Deputy Director
Bureau of Highway Technical Services

SUBJECT: Bureau of Highway Instructional Memorandum 2001-02
Experimental Traffic control Devices/Methods in Work Zones

Attached for your information are the Guidelines for Approval of Experimental Traffic Control Devices/Methods in MDOT Work Zones. These Guidelines must be saved, then viewed and printed in Adobe Acrobat.

The purpose of these Guidelines is to ensure a thorough evaluation is done on all experimental devices and methods used in our work zones. With these Guidelines, duplication of efforts within our department can be avoided and, as a whole, we will learn what effectively provides guidance to the motorist and protection for the worker.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Tom Myers at 517-373-2321.

Chief Operations Officer

Chief Engineer/Deputy Director
Bureau of Highway Technical Services

Attachment
BOHTS:T&S:MWB:jp
Index: Traffic Control

cc: C&T Staff
Real Estate, M. Frierson
Design Division, P. Miller
Maintenance Division, C. Roberts
Traffic & Safety, J. O'Doherty
C&T Division, J. Culp
OEO, S. El Ahmad
J. Klee
R. Knapp
B. Jay
V. Blaxton
K. Trentham
MRBA
MAPA
MCPA
MCA
MAA
AUC
CRAM
MRPA
S. Cook
R. Endres
T. Hynes
G. Mayes
P. O'Rourke
D. Smiley
J. Staton
R. Till
J. Poole
B. Munroe
M. Maloney
J. Finch
J. Saller
R. Briere
P. Ajegba
R. Lariviere
D. Lund
S. Conradson
P. Wisniewski
J. Gailitis
B. Smith
T. Myers

**GUIDELINES FOR APPROVAL OF
EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES/METHODS
IN MDOT WORK ZONES (CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE)**

Proposed New Traffic Control Devices/Methods

1. Proposals for new traffic control devices/methods are to be presented to the Traffic and Safety Specialist, Construction & Technology Division (C&T).
2. Proposals must include the following information:
 - Compliance with MMUTCD
 - How do the traffic control devices meet the department's needs
 - Cost
 - Independent lab testing to indicate this device meets specs
 - Other agency experience under similar conditions
 - Documentation that the traffic control devices provides the same or greater protection to both motorists and workers as existing approved device(s)
- Who can submit a written proposal:
 - Company representatives of the device
 - Contractors - but it must be joint with (a)
 - Regional or Transportation Service Center (TSC) staff
 - Traffic Recommendations Committee (TRC) members
 - Lansing C&T
 - Lansing Traffic and Safety
- Proposal must be accepted by acceptable to the Traffic and Safety Specialist, Construction & Technology Division, and approved by the TRC prior to placement of the experimental devices. Once approved, test applications or sections will be developed within a zone as selected by TRC and agreed upon by the TSC. After agreement to test is made, changing of experimental devices will not be allowed. If devices are approved for evaluation and no suitable project is available, the devices may be placed the following construction year. Criteria for test sections will be developed on a case-by-case basis. The size of the test section will depend mainly on the amount and type of performance data the company provides and the cost/benefits of the devices. The TSC, in conjunction with a representative from the Research Laboratory Section, C&T will be the evaluation team for the device. Oversight of the experimentation will be conducted by C&T. The Engineer will provide on-site assistance.
- TRC, in approving the experimentation, may require or ask that a representative from the company be present when new devices are placed.

**GUIDELINES FOR APPROVAL OF
EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES/METHODS
IN MDOT WORK ZONES**

Page 2

- Documentation will start on the test section and traffic control device at the time of the devices are placed. Documentation will be developed by the Research Laboratory Section, C&T. Should the devices/methods not perform as intended or be detrimental to the motoring public, the Engineer may discontinue or remove the device immediately.
- Evaluations of new devices are to be conducted as determined by the Research Laboratory Section, C&T.
- The length of time for evaluation of new devices shall be for the duration of the project.
- Upon completion of the project, the evaluation team shall submit a final report to TRC. The report will include the written proposal (step 3) documentation at installation (step 6), evaluations (step 7), and final recommendations. If the device is deemed beneficial, the recommendation will include conditions/guidelines for its use.
- If accepted by TRC, a special provision for the device will be drafted for C&T's approval, by the evaluation team, using the conditions/guidelines in the final report and any recommendation from TRC. The experimentation may be expanded to other locations for further study if recommended by the evaluation team and approved by TRC.
- TRC will submit the device to the Engineering Operations Committee (EOC) for approval. Included in the EOC submittal will be the final report, the special provisions, and TRC's recommendations. If approved by EOC, the TRC will forward the device to C&T for processing and finalization.